

The election campaign of 1898 represented the beginning of the end for the Republican Party and the promise of full control of state politics by 1900 for the Democrats. The use of violence and intimidation using both clandestine and overt methods proved a successful model for the Democratic Party to disassemble the fragile framework of cooperation between white and black Republicans and Populists. In Wilmington, Democratic victory at the ballot box, whether honestly or fraudulently obtained, would be a reality. Less clear was how the hysteria and fear stimulated by the campaign would dissipate.